

TRANSGENDER DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE



NOVEMBER 20, 2012

Black & Pink



a family of
LGBTQ
prisoners and
"free world"
LGBTQA allies
who support
each other

NOVEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

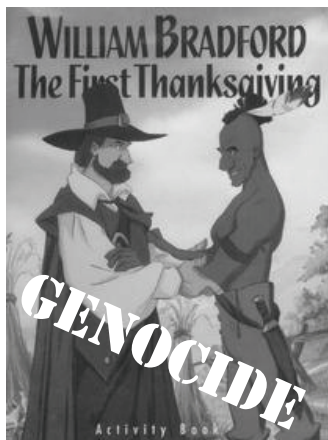
Dear friends,

There is good news and there is bad news. The good news is that the national election cycle is over and we do not have Mitt Romney as our president. The bad news is that we still have a president and that no politician anywhere across the country talked about abolishing the prisons, ending the war on drugs, relieving police of their duties, or any of our other top needs. Things have not changed much for us as a family or for us as a movement, but again, the good news is that the election season is over. On a personal note I'm incredibly excited that it is now the time for Christmas music and I can listen to it as much as I want guilt free, even if others judge me.

Not only is this the time for Christmas music, but there are a multitude of holidays right about now. Holidays can be really tricky times for us as queer and trans folk and even more so when the holidays are spent behind prison walls. For many of us there are not families to celebrate with, no cards coming in the mail or visits set up. When it comes to Thanksgiving there is also that pesky history of colonialism and genocide that it conveniently tries to cover up.

I have been blessed with a family that not only accepts my queerness, they also put up with my radical politics, for the most part. Thanksgiving is the only consistent holiday my family gets together for year after year. We gather together on the South Shore of Massachusetts, in Kingston, and share a few days with each other. On Thanksgiving morning a group of us always head out to Plymouth, not for the Thanksgiving parade, but for the annual commemoration of the National Day of Mourning. This is an event and march coordinated by the United American Indians of New England. It is a time for Indigenous people to tell a side of the story that is washed away by fake stories about pilgrims and Indigenous people having a happy dinner together.

The gathering in Plymouth strives to tell some truth about the legacy of Thanksgiving. The first

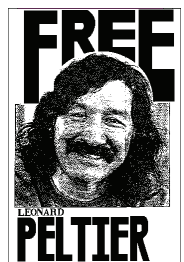


Thanksgiving was not in 1621, the meal shared by Indigenous people and the Pilgrims. Rather the first Thanksgiving was declared by the Governor of the Massachusetts Colony, William Bradford in 1637. It was not a celebration of kinship between the European colonizers and the Indigenous people, it was a celebration of the Pequot massacre. In his declaration, Governor Bradford wrote that the celebration was to be, "a day of celebration and thanksgiving for subduing the Pequots." The subduing was the murder of 700 people of all ages and genders. The gathering on Cole's Hill in Plymouth each year, since 1970, is an opportunity to tell the truth and to challenge the ongoing genocide of Indigenous people today. People hold signs calling for the release of political prisoner and American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier. There are other signs reminding us there that

prisons are not native to the land and neither is homophobia. It's a celebration of solidarity and a time for those of us who are white to listen and for the voices of Indigenous people to speak loudly for themselves.

The opportunity during Thanksgiving to hold hands and bless the food being shared is a cherished one, but the food tastes better and the family time feels better when we take time to be honest about where the holiday comes from and how it impacts people today. The rates of incarceration of Indigenous young people is unconscionable, the impacts of drug and alcohol use, and the continued theft of land are all part of the ongoing oppression of Indigenous people. Yet people survive, dance, worship, celebrate, and keep culture alive. As we keep fighting for the freedom of our Black and Pink family held captive behind bars, we do so in relationship with all those struggling for liberation. As this Thanksgiving comes I hope we can all feel comfort in knowing we are not alone and that once there were no prisons, that day will come again.

In loving solidarity,
Jason



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Greetings to all my Brothers & Sisters LGBTQ across the U.S.A.,

I've been getting the B&P Newsletter for [several] years now. I appreciate all your words and wisdom, you all have helped me get through some tough times. I've been in the hole "Ad Seg/SHU" now for 6 ½ years, still have 9 years left on my SHU term. I get out of the SHU in 2021. You all have kept me strong in my struggle. I've not many friends, and have no immediate family. I was cut loose when I was 13, lived on the streets. I did what I had to do to survive. You're all my family now. Thank you all for your words and wisdom. I look forward to my Newsletter every month. To all my Brothers & Sisters LGBTQ, you all stay strong. Keep your heads up high. You all take care.

With Love & Respects

Kevin, California



Dear Black & Pink and the Gay Community,

I am a Federal Prisoner from New Hampshire but was born in Massachusetts. I'm currently incarcerated in Virginia. I have to tell you all that in one aspect of my life I was blessed to come to where I am now 5 years ago, as I was lucky to meet my boyfriend Avon who is from D.C. He is truly a sweetheart to me and an individual, not a follower like the rest from that area. Avon and I have been together for almost 5 years now and all of it here in a Controlled Environment, but Avon and I are very open and carefree about what anyone thinks of us. We cuddle, kiss, hold, and spend all our free time together that we can and the environment here has accepted it. Even the staff here knows us well. We are Salt & Pepper, he is Black and I am White, and we mix well like Coffee and Cream with a bit of Sugar.

Avon has gone back to the street now but our love rides on and we plan to move up to Mass or NH and fulfill our wish together and that is to get married legally! Good love is hard to find and if you find it in a place like this then protect it because the haters will try to take it but cannot if you're strong!

Phil, Virginia



Dear Black & Pink Family,

My name is Robert and I am currently serving time in a Pennsylvania State Correctional Facility. Although this is not my first time writing to Black & Pink, this is however my first time sharing my story with anyone.

I am a 37 year old bi-sexual male who has been in the closet for many many years, living in fear of how my family, friends, and also my religion will view my life. I say my Religion because I am a Muslim man in America! And being Gay or Bi-sexual is frowned upon in my Religion and also in the Black community. Being Gay or Bi-Sexual is not a bad thing, it is who God made us to be. I don't see how the color of my skin or the God that I serve should prevent me from liking who I like or loving the one that I want to love!



In the June 2012 Newsletter there is a letter from someone named Jessica doing time in Texas and she inspired me to write about my story and let everyone know that I love being bi-sexual and I am proud of it. She stated "Homosexuality is not just a sexual preference- it's also our identity."

Black & Pink, it's because of you and all the people that write in and share their stories that I can finally let people know that I am proud to be Gay and not feel ashamed or embarrassed about how they will view me or what they will say about me!

-Boo, Pennsylvania



Hey Black & Pink,

My name is Joshua aka C-God. I'm currently a member of the Black & Pink community.

During the month of November (2011), two C.O.'s pulled me out of the dayroom. Then they slammed me on the ground, broke my fingers and stomped me, leaving boot prints on my face.

I was seen by medical. Given x-rays. The results determines that I have a fracture to my left hand. A C.O. that witnessed the incident wrote a statement on my behalf. I was then transferred to another unit. I've filed my Step 1 and Step 2 grievances with unsatisfactory results. I filed my 1983 lawsuit under cruel and unusual punishment.

I contacted a few media outlets and some state representatives. I've not heard from neither. But the court has set a teleconference with the two defendants, a nurse to interpret medical records, and an administrative official to interpret, and disciplinary and officer statements.

Teleconference is held Sept 20, 2012. God works in mysterious ways. Take that! Take that! Back to back! Big payback!

Forever,

C-God, Texas

Editor's note: We hope your teleconference went well!!

Dear Friends and Family,

First off, Love, Peace, and Salutations to my brothers and sisters. I want to thank Black & Pink for helping me and being here for me and the rest of the LGBTQ and anyone I may have forgotten. My name is True Love, yes, True Love because no matter if you're a friend, family member, or lover, all you'll ever get from me is True Love.

Although I'm doing five to ten years I am happy knowing that so many of my brothers and sisters are standing tall and letting their voice be heard. I hope to one day be standing side by side with you all but until then, keep being out, keep standing and know that I'm with you in heart.

-True Love, Pennsylvania

Dear Black and Pink Family Members,

Salutations once again! My name is Wilbert W. I'm 26 years old and am a part of the LGBTQ group. I'm currently serving a 6 years sentence for carjack. I have 17 months left 'til I go home without parole or probation. I love the LGBTQ family who is true to it and isn't ashamed of who they are. At this moment I am fighting to stay alive because they (heterosexuals) are trying to destroy (187) me due to the facts that I don't want to live up to their prison rules. I will fight against them 'til I go home. As for myself, I am a Homosexual Revolutionist and Activist in prison and on the street.

I want to thank Black & Pink Family members for allowing us LGBTQ members to be able to receive a LGBTQ Newsletter once a month! I love you all with all my heart! Oh Yeah! I want to share this with my family of the LGBTQ who is seeking answers from religion. Here is some wise words of my Blessed Lord: "Even if you are considered to be the most sinful of all sinners, when you are situated in the boat of transcendental knowledge, you will be able to cross over the oceans of miseries" [Bhagavad-Gita 4:36]. Here is another one that the Blessed Lord said: "Even if you commit the abominable actions, if you is engaged in devotional service, he is to be considered saintly because he is properly situated" [Bhagavad-Gita 9:30]. The Bhagavad-Gita teaches one how to become self-realized and God-realized.

Love always your brother,
Wilbert W., Louisiana

I want to reach out to my Sisters and Brothers who strive for Independence everyday. That struggle amongst us is real and unless we stand to be accounted for, that struggle becomes meaningless. Gays, lesbians, and Transgenders are being raped, beat up, and in some cases killed. All on the account of what our sexual preference is. But so often we fight one another, being mean & catty. It's not everyone, but the few that is doing it need to stop. Because when the "straight and arrow" people see conflict amongst ourselves, then how can they respect us. You girls know what I'm talking about. I challenge us all to stop the cattiness, the bickering over the small issues. We have enough problems psychologically and emotionally to be dealing with self inflicted issues. Think about those of us who is fighting for our Justice, out Independence, our Equal Rights. Think about the sweating and crying to make sure we are treated with equalness. We deserve that.

So in closing, I make the challenge to stand back to back with our Brothers & Sisters, and stand prideful with no hatred or cattiness, just as one family stands with you.

Love, Jasmine
California

Black & Pink to co-host Angela Davis & Noam Chomsky on 12/8/12 in Boston!

Angela Davis is the founder of Critical Resistance; Noam Chomsky is an activist-author.



"Critical Resistance seeks to build an international movement to end the prison industrial complex (PIC) by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe. We believe that basic necessities such as food, shelter, and freedom are what really make our communities secure. As such, our work is part of global struggles against inequality and powerlessness. The success of the movement requires that it reflect communities most affected by the PIC. Because we seek to abolish the PIC, we cannot support any work that extends its life or scope".

Part 1: Civil Tone... From a Woman of Color's Perspective



Dear Men, Women, Boys and Girls,
My family of life and struggle this is for you...

My name be Ms. Lakesha N. and I am a woman who is transgendered, incarcerated, 28 and working for Justice and Equality for the whole of us. I am currently housed in an Indiana Department of Corrections Control Unit. On my perspective for change....

Sue, Sue, and SUE! 1st thing we need to know and pay attention to is the United States Constitution and your state's constitution's mandates. Before I speak on the U.S. Constitution and the Indiana State Constitution, I am going to quote an International Policy for the Imprisoned Transgendered and the definition of Torture, as defined by the United Nations. The laws that the United Nations makes overshadow U.S. laws and apply to all of we U.S. prisoners. Any U.S. laws that are not in line with the approved U.N. laws are not valid. U.N. laws are International laws, applicable nations-wide.

Policy for the Imprisoned Transgendered.

Prisoner rights were addressed in two proceedings from the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Pages 3, 134-141 (1993), and in three proceedings from Pages 83-86 (1994). ICTLEP, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, NY, 13326.

The policy for the Imprisoned Transgendered, adopted at the 2nd ICTLEP conference, August 28th, 1993, reads as follows:

"Segregation in the interest of the inmate's safety and dignity shall not deprive any inmate from the rights, privileges, and facilities afforded to others general population inmates.

Access to counseling shall be afforded all transgendered inmates and shall include peer support group participation by those from inside the institution and those from outside where possible. Counseling professionals should be qualified with respect to the current standard in gender science.

Transgendered inmates shall be allowed to initiate or to continue hormone therapy, electrolysis, and other transgender treatment modalities as prescribed by involved professionals.

The transgendered inmate shall have access to clothing, personal items, and cosmetics that are appropriate to the gender presentation of that inmate and appropriate within the institutional setting.

Special care shall be taken not to make a spectacle of transgendered inmates to the amusement of others, or to deny or to deprive transgendered inmates of their dignity.

A process shall be established to afford the hearing of grievances to the above policy items and appropriate resolution shall be made."

Definition of Torture

from Article I of the United Nations Convention Against Torture, which has the weight of U.S. Law.

"For the purposes of the convention, the term 'torture' means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in, or incidental to lawful sanctions."

Words and phrases that make laws, rules, regulations, and statutes mandatory, that we must pay attention to, are Shall, Must, Have to, Required to, Directed to do, Mandated, Non-discretionary. These words and phrases mean that when used in law (such as in clause I of our U.S. 14th Constitutional Amendment) the Government, that has been established for we citizens (i.e. courts as representatives, the criminal justice system), is mandated to do what the laws say or refrain from doing what the law says they are not to do. The Government has no choice whether to or not follow legal mandates, OK? This means the above policy must be honored by your prison and its mental health and medical care staff and custody staff. This means the courts of the U.S. must honor this policy. They are obligated to honor and uphold the laws. If the DOC and/or the courts do not uphold the laws in your civil cases or criminal cases you can SUE your state and the United States as the courts and DOC are working on behalf of the United States. *Continued on Page 5*

Continued from Page 4: Our United States Constitution #14 Section I does not differentiate between a prisoner or non-prisoner.

Perspective: The 14th Amendment, which applies to all U.S. States, says that no state shall deny any citizen the equal protection of the laws within its jurisdiction and no state shall make or enforce any rules or laws that denies citizens their state and federal rights. This means your state and its government shall not make any laws or rules that deny you the above policy mandates. This means no state you're in shall deny you the securities of ANY procedure required by/in law (civil or criminal) no matter how small. If a law and its procedures stipulate a certain course of conduct it must be followed especially if you see mandatory words and phrases therein. By law this is called a Due Process Deprivation that the 14th US Amendment forbids and can win you many civil cases and get your criminal case reversed! Pay attention to the words.

Perspective: If we collectively enforce our constitutions, as a collective, in civil suits, we can and will get the changes we are constitutionally entitled to. Change in the Criminal Justice system? SUE! Change in medical care? SUE the U.S. and state legislatures for making and enforcing laws and policies that deprive us of our rights to the same medical care the "rich" are entitled to. Change in our global and economically hazardous societies due to local/national/international policies which effect our rights, our happiness, etc? SUE! If a state or federal court chooses to disregard laws in your criminal or civil case, this is called Breach of Contract...SUE! 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (2000) gives us the right to sue those acting under orders of the State or Federal laws for violating our rights!

If we really want the change we seek, we the citizens of our Constitution, our United States, shall take it to court all at once and enforce our rights. No matter how much opposition we incur.

Love Forevermore,
Angel Baby

Editor's Notes: Part II of Lakesha's article will follow next month. It is great we can share so much legal knowledge with each other. Please note that the free world B&P crew does not "fact check" or verify any of this information. We simply make it so people can share knowledge with each other.

Perseverance, Family, Love!

Gay and joyous greetings to my kindred, and whomever else reading this poem. Hard is our struggle, intense and continuous the storm. Ridiculed, hated, and purposely misunderstood. Judged by the mentally shallow- my pride signals that it's all good.

I refuse to bow my head in confusion, guilt, or even shame. I drape myself with a Black and Pink flag, and kindle my faggish flame. The passion for my sexual taste cannot be explained, but I'm proud to be gay- Happily, I proclaim.

Brothers and Sister of our lifestyle, I love you all without a doubt. I share my spirit with all of you, that's what kindehood is all about. I'm smiling right now with pleasing thoughts as I express myself with paper and ink. I hope your attention, this poem has caught, as I leave you with a smile, a blowed kiss, and a wink.

-David, Incarcerated in Florida

Zionism is incompatible with the goals and methods of abolishing the prison industrial complex. Gaza has also been referred to as the "world's largest open air prison." It is in the spirit of solidarity that Black and Pink aligns with the struggles for a free Palestine, an end to Israel's settler colonial violence, and an immediate stop to the current attack on Gaza.



"Never Unity"

The wind screams over the gun tower
As I watch from my stone apartment
Silence and sadness, here in brick city
Death and vanity grin at me with menace
Our anger and temper driving us apart
Are we too stubborn, or too ignorant to understand
Hatred flooded in while you were gone
Brotherhood stumbled out to avoid trouble
Colorless dawn has come silently
The sky brightens alone
Without the nose of the sun

Daniel, Texas

Someday

Someday, when we are wiser
When the world's older
When we have learned
I pray someday we may yet
Live to live and let live

Someday, life will be better
Need will be rarer
And greed will not pay
Godspeed this bright millennia
On its way, let it come someday

Someday our fight will be won, and
We'll stand together in the sun
In that bright afternoon
'Til then, on days when the sun
Is gone, we'll hang on

There are days, dark and bitter
Seems we haven't got a prayer
But a prayer for something better
Is the one thing we both share

Someday, when we are together
When the whole world is older
When we have love
And I pray someday we may yet
Live to live and let live
Someday life will be better
Need will be rarer
And greed will not pay

Godspeed this bright millennia
Let it come
If we wish upon the moon
One day, someday... Soon!

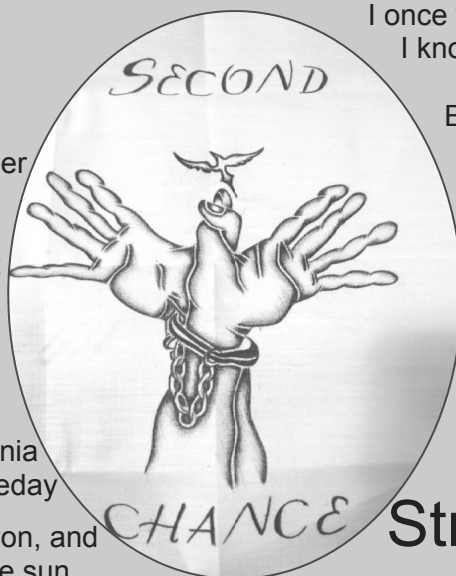
By Scottie L., Florida

My Climb!

I dig deep and roar from my Gut
I know I got strength to rise to the top
You can beat on my body,
You can beat on my mind
Erase your hate for the good of Mankind
Your words can't hold a good man down
My inner lion I have found
On this damned earth I'm determined to stay
With clutched hands I sit and pray
I'm a man who can wear my heart on my sleeve
With the drive to conquer the world to set myself free
I have a voice that's destined to be heard
Spoken truth through each word
I once was blind but now I see
I know I got strength within me!!

By Mr. W.W.

Artwork by: Reggie W.



Strong as You Wanna Be

Strong as You Wanna Be
Is one of the main keys to our success
We must put forth our love and determination
And let the Lord do the rest
I know right now things look hard
And you may feel like giving in
But if you give in now Baby
This war we sure won't win
Strong as you wanna be!
Remember all the miles we left behind
We came to a little place called Pasco County
And a true love we sure did find
Now let's take it to another level
Beyond our enemy's reach
The special love that we have for each other
Is a love you know we must keep
Now with these words
I hope to encourage you because you know
We seek happiness and peace
Yet the main point of this dedicated poem is
You're as strong as you wanna be

Speedy, Florida



Transgender Day of Remembrance

This year, we commemorate at least 265 transgender people who were murdered since last November. Most of the dead were transwomen of color, many were involved in sex work. Our hearts and minds go to their communities and loved ones. We need to fight for resources to end transphobia to combat this violence; more police and prisons is not the solution. Vigils were held all around the world! More information is available from: www.transrespect-transphobia.org

On Trans Day of Remembrance: A Proposal

By CeCe McDonald, on <http://supportcece.wordpress.com/>

In light of Trans Day of Remembrance, this letter is more of a proposal to the LGBTQI community, specifically to my wonderful sisters of the "transnation." My objective of this letter is to share ideas and ignite a spark in the women (and I use the term woman broadly to express all women and not having to put "trans" in front of the term. We are all WOMEN, be it that that's what you identify as, and I don't speak for all women but those who identify as such) to change our perspective of our communities (be it our neighborhoods, abroad, and the LGBTQI communities) and ourselves.

I want all my beautiful people to take the time to process this proposal, and take an initiative to better our communities and ourselves. To put forth an effort to have our voices heard and to let the world know we exist and the issues that affect us aren't being acknowledged, nor solved.

This all came about from a letter that I received, followed by some paperwork for review for the Trans Youth Support Network's (TYSN) Leadership Development Program, and a Tarot reading I gave myself. But it all made sense when I was trying to sleep, which is usually when I have these epiphanies, and the word "collaborative" steadily flashed in my head and it continued until it was clear to me, as in it I opened my mind's eye. I sat up and pieced it all together and there bloomed the inspiration to put this together. I want to share these series of events that led to the light-bulb going off over my head, and my proposal to people all over who want to make changes and have OUR voices heard.

It all started with a very artistic letter (which I'm sure took a while to write) from Alexander K. out in Philadelphia. [Letter not included due to space limitations]. Now, prior to this I've had many conversations with my lovely friend and colleague Katie Burgess (Executive Director of TYSN) about my future beyond the "concrete chaos," which includes my position at TYSN and how my position of leadership can bring a change to TYSN and how the "world" views (trans)women, for the better. And after reading the letter from Alexander, having this feeling of anger and sadness from the death of Kyra, it felt that I wanted to take on this challenge of being a leader now more than ever. It was fate that at the moment of having these feelings, I received a review packet of TYSN's Leadership Program with all these wonderful ideas and solid policies. And of course, me being the optimistic and sometime overly-anxious person that I am, I was so charged to get to business.

And like any person with optimism, sometimes it can be scary and overwhelming, especially when it's a job or craft that one enjoy and cherish, like this is for me. *Continued on Page 8.*



Images of some of the transgender community members that were lost to violence this year.

Continued from Page 7 And I don't know how to handle it, all these ideas and feelings and wanting to go all in. So I felt a little lost and had all these questions that felt unanswered. For me, I go to my faith which is anything spiritual. From prayer to yoga, I do it all. For this, I was drawn to my Tarot cards (thanks Kat!) and it seemed like they read into my soul and hit dead on. I asked the deck: "How does leadership and my future come together and how do I handle it, and is this where I should be (referring to being a leader)?" After I asked, I closed my eyes and took some deep breaths. I pulled four cards and laid them out. I opened my eyes and there was the Two of Bones (ed.: this card speaks to the magical nature of change, and life as a series of decisions to be made), the Instructor (aka the Hierophant) (ed.: this card reflects on institutions, hierarchies, and tradition; the image is of an instructor who has "created or inherited her institution and ... is now devoted to maintaining it"), Mentor of Bottles (ed.: The Mentor of Bottles represents a leader who acts with responsibility, mastery, experience, calm, and tolerance.), and The Code (ed.: This card speaks to the rules and structures that hold power in communities, which can benefit us as well as constrain us.).

After giving myself such a relevant and accurate reading, I know that this is where I belong (referring to being a leader). That most times in our lives we question our greatness, and sometimes feel that we won't or can't deal with the pressures of being leaders, to own the power to have authority and make changes, even if it's what we want the baddest in life. And from the Leadership Development Program review, I know that our beliefs can be passed on and taught to our future leaders of the LGBTQI community. To have rights and a voice. To be able to walk in this world, not afraid and actually feel like a human being and not a shadow in a corner. At TYSN, we believe that our trans youth know themselves, believe in each other, can create the basis of respect by understanding our fears, are all teachers and learners all the time, that we are all mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, daughters and sons, but most importantly we are all worth it, worthy, beautiful, strong, more than a binary, are able to become self-actualized, can and have already succeeded as a person, and of course, leaders. We need to understand this now more than ever. We need to not only celebrate for Trans Day of Remembrance, but also become self-aware and ready to put an end to our community being the focus of violence. Of course it is more than important to recognize and pay homage to our fallen, but we also need to put our feet down and start being real leaders and making this stand. And personally speaking, if it's true that this is my personal journey as a leader, I want to lead my troops to victory. I can't continue to say "how bad" that another brother, sister, mother, father, partner, friend is gone from blind-hatred. From ignorance and discrimination.

I would have rather been punished for asserting myself than become another victim of hatred. No, I'm not saying violence is key or all people should react the way I did, but our communities, whether here or abroad, have become the victim of malicious and hateful crimes. We need to start now. Make your voices heard. Reach out to the lawmakers, hell get it to the president if we have to. But we need to stop and work from inside out. We need to find strong leaders who can handle the pressures of being just that. Also we need to stop "throwing so much shade" to each other. All that anger that we direct towards each other should be directed at its true source, the people who treat us badly. The politicians who act like we don't exist and don't focus on the rights and safety of the LGBTQI people, especially (trans)women. I would be lying if I said that I once wasn't a shady girl, but now I am a woman who wants to be a role model and a leader for the (trans) woman of the 21st century. To be unmarginalized and recognized for who I am, and who we are: strong, wonderful, loving women, and that we are people. That femininity can be as, if not more, strong and resilient than masculinity. That we deserve the same rights as any heterosexual, cissexual, or any person who objects against our being. It kills me to know that a man, or any person with a penis, can get a "genital pump," with medial insurance, but we as (trans)women have to struggle with costs for GRS and other trans related medical issues, some of which have not even considerable for insurance coverage. Crazy, right?

So my proposal is for all the organizations who are for growth of the (trans) youth, for the growth of OUR communities and such, to now take a collaborative into effect. To connect and extend to other organizations. To start building leaders and making changed for the better. At TYSN we believe that we can bring the (trans) community together, that we can foster the creation of POWERFUL art, that we can change the world, that we can create empowerment, that we can work with existing systems and outside systems to create resources for self and community and importantly, that we can overcome adversity and build a whole, balanced, and successful life. And I know we want that for all our (trans)women around the world. We need for our mission to promote racial, social, and economic justice for trans youth, with freedom to self-define gender identity and expression. I love my people and I want us all to succeed. It won't be long before I'm out and I want to be involved with all those who are willing to step up and get ready for a revolution, and it will not be televised! [...]

This will be it for now, and I'll be sure to follow up on this and on my future leaders. TTYL my lovelies!
 "If you can achieve the thought, you can make it happen!"

Sincerest love, CeCe aka Honee Bea

QEJ's Statement of Grief over the Passing of William Brandon Lacy Campos

Queers for Economic Justice is Black & Pink's fiscal sponsor. Brandon was instrumental in this partnership. We share QEJ's grief, and wish the best to his colleagues and loved ones during this difficult time.



Queers for Economic Justice is writing this message in sorrow to tell our friends and supporters that on Friday, November 9th, 2012, William Brandon Lacy Campos, QEJ's former Co-Executive Director, died unexpectedly. He was only 35. There are few other details available at this moment. We are sending our love and condolences to his family, his partner Nico, to David and Mimzy, and to his friends and closest comrades-in-arms.

All of us at QEJ are shocked and grief-stricken at his passing. Brandon was a luminous but wounded gift to our community. His death is a tragic and a terrible thing. We know that we have lost another person we could not afford to lose. And as a part of a great family of fighters, QEJ can see that there is a terrible crisis occurring in our community, one which causes us to suffer the deaths of so many precious people who could not survive the terrible price of oppression and the overwhelming toll it exacts. It is deeply evident in Brandon's unexpected death, reminding us of the scars and vulnerabilities of so many whom we love.

We do not yet understand how to save these complicated lives. QEJ believes that we must start to have a different conversation, not with rhetoric or in blame, but because we are each other's best hope for survival. We are heartbroken at saying farewell to you, Brandon: Sweet friend, brave fighter, beautiful queer spirit, QEJ family. You will not be forgotten.



Black and Pink Around Town



Johannes and Reed 10/20
LGBTQ Youth of Color Empowerment



Jason (and Reed) 10/28
Transcending Boundaries



Ben, (Reed, Dustin & Jason) 11/10
Boston Anarchist Bookfair

Keep in Touch w/ Black & Pink

Black & Pink—{Insert topic tag here}, c/o Community Church of Boston

565 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116



If you would like to request:	Please use this topic tag, and we'll do our best:
Newsletter Subscriptions (Start or Stop)	Newsletter Subscriptions
Newsletter Submissions (Poems & Stories)	Newsletter Submissions
"Outside" Free Pen-Pal Ad form request	Pen-Pal
Address Change (Will take time to update; at this time, we are mostly unable to send back issues.)	Address Change
Black & Pink Organization Feedback	Developing Leadership
Request Erotica	Erotica
Religious Support	Religion
Volunteering (Send thank you cards to donors, etc.)	Volunteer
Advocacy Requests (include details about situation and thoughts about how calls or letters might help)	Advocacy
Art Reed apologizes that the art project is currently not accepting new artwork until we have a volunteer base.	—



LEGAL: Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. "Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work."
Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$24 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner and Men Against Sexism organizer, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to:
Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 2420, West Brattleboro, VT 05303

SURVIVORS: Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor.
Ms. Chris Daley, Esq., 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Share with the Black & Pink Newsletter!

We welcome submissions of stories, articles, poems, and some art for the B&P Newsletter. We focus on submissions that deal with being LGBTQ, being in prison, and resistance, survival, and activism. We also focus on pieces that strengthen the Family, and further the values and goals of B&P, as we are unable to publish everything we receive. For length, we like at most a typed page (about 700 words) or less, though we can sometimes publish pieces in two sections. We try to make at least half of the Newsletter written by people in prison. We cannot pay for submissions, though we do not charge for sending the Newsletter to people. We unfortunately have to avoid "promoting inmate to inmate communication" because it gets the newsletter banned from some prisons. For this reason, we only put people's first names and State after their submission. Also, when responding to the writing of other people, please direct your thoughts and feelings to the whole family, rather than to individuals.



Keep your writing coming!! You make this Newsletter happen.

Remember to use the Topic Tag "Newsletter Submission" on your mail, please!